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Title: Women of Project Y

Author(s): McGuiness, Laura Lee

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Title: Women of Project Y



Abstract: A brief history of women's roles at Los Alamos National Laboratory during the Manhattan Project. Then, a focused section on one female lab employee, Miriam White Campbell.



The Women of Project Y

A Snapshot of Women at Wartime Los Alamos

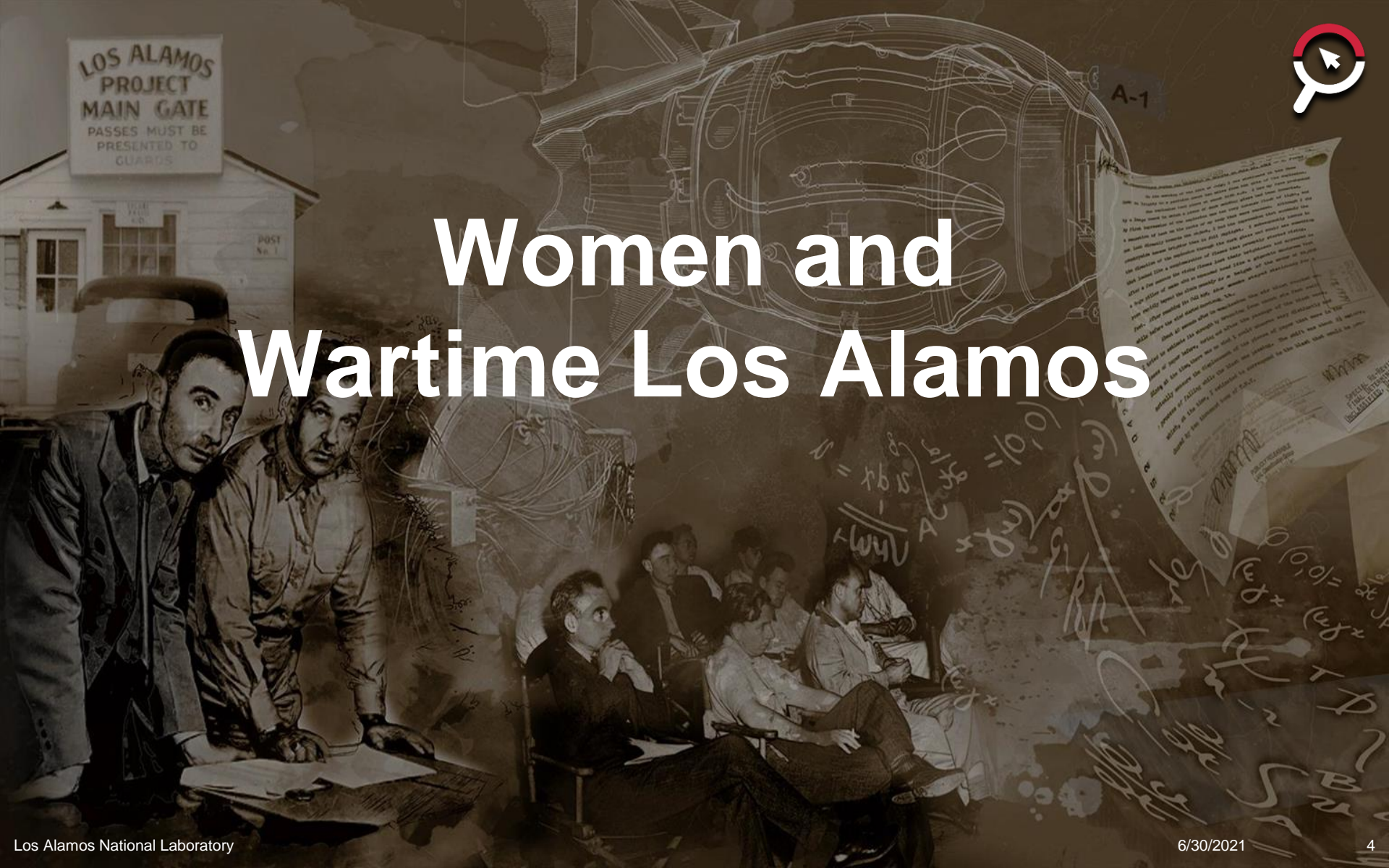


Laura McGuinness

June 30, 2021



Women and Wartime Los Alamos



Women at the Los Alamos Manhattan Project



- 11% of the workforce at the wartime Laboratory were women
- 40% of women working at the Laboratory were members of the Women's Army Corps (WAC)



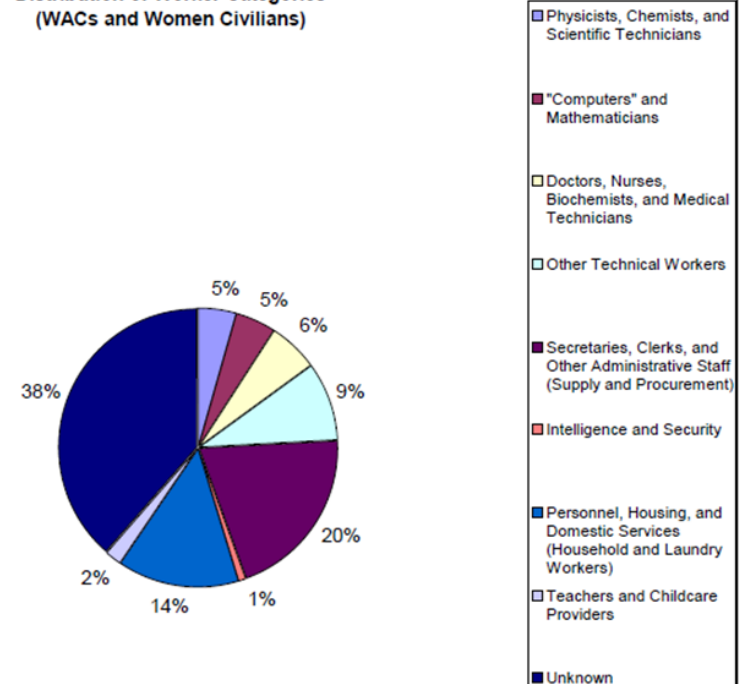
Women at the Los Alamos Manhattan Project



“Some of the wives were scientists in their own right, and they, of course, were in great demand, but with labor at a premium we could put to good use everyone we could get, whether as secretaries or as technical assistants or as teachers in the public school that we started for children.”

— **Manhattan Project leader Gen. Leslie Groves**

Distribution of Worker Categories
(WACs and Women Civilians)



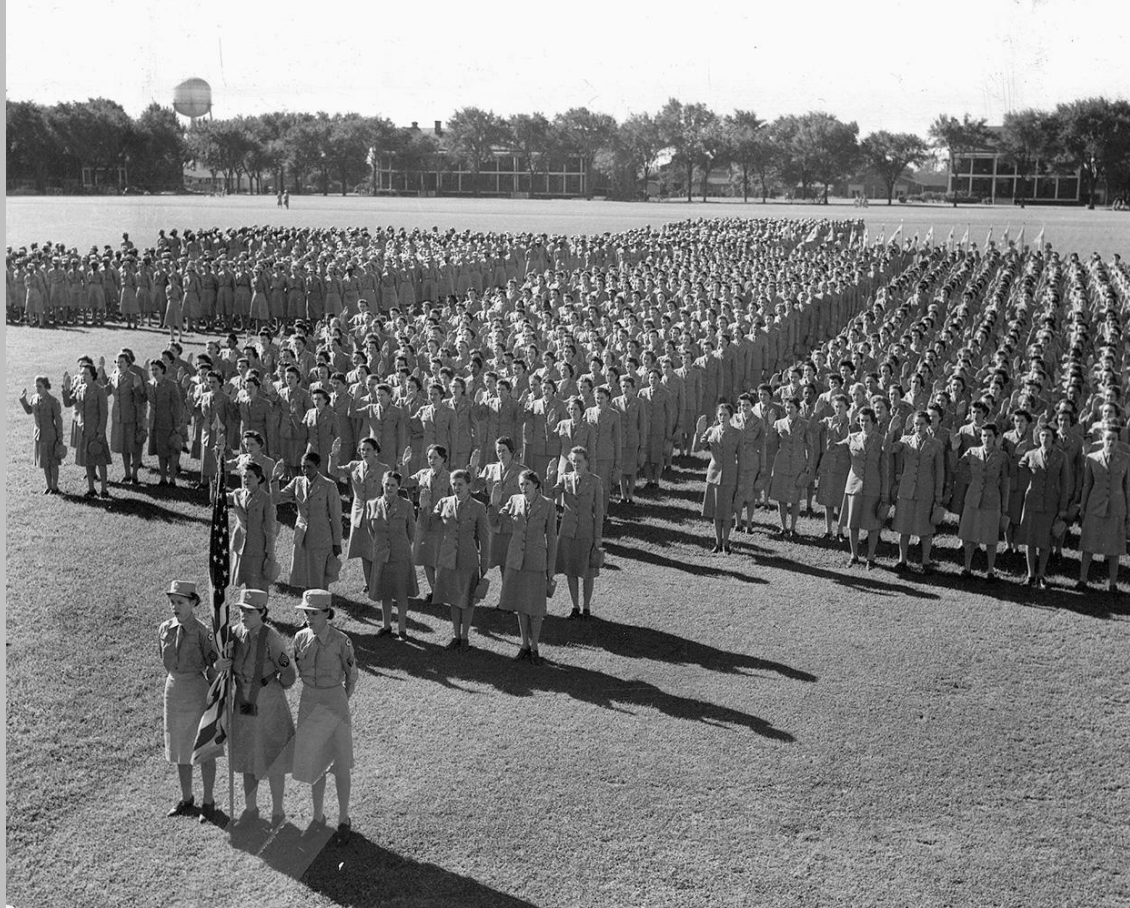
The Women of Project Y: Working at the Birthplace of the Bomb
— NSRC Historian Ellen McGehee



Miriam White Campbell

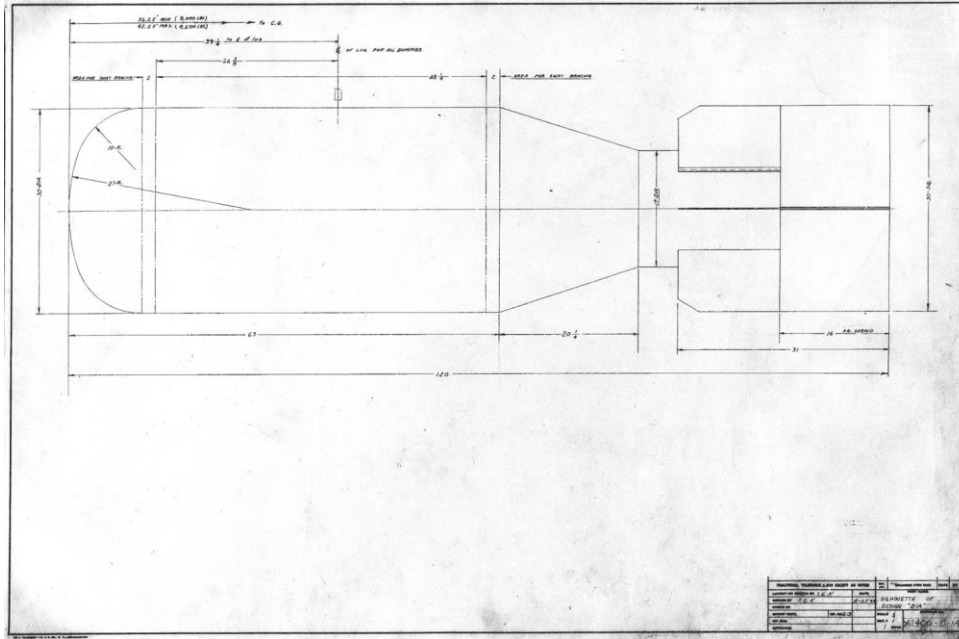


Miriam White Campbell



**“I could draw
anything they wanted
and I did.”**

Drawing Little Boy



A uranium gun-type atomic weapon. 9,700 pounds, 10-feet long, and just over 2-feet in diameter.

Note: These blueprints were not drawn by Miriam White Campbell, but are the same subject.

“I didn’t know the physics. Just how to draw. And my training in drawing was architectural. I suppose now it would all be done on the computer but at that time somebody had to take a pencil or pen and draw everything.”

Life at the Lab

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RE: Receipt of CLASSIFIED Material.

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I have personally received from (sender) Capt. R.C. Smith

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CLASS (Secret, Confidential)	DESCRIPTION Nature* (Letter, Report, etc.)	FROM	ADDRESSED TO	DATED
Secret	3 sheets of drawings S-1214	RCS	JTS	16 May 44

*SO: signed original

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16 May 44 (date)

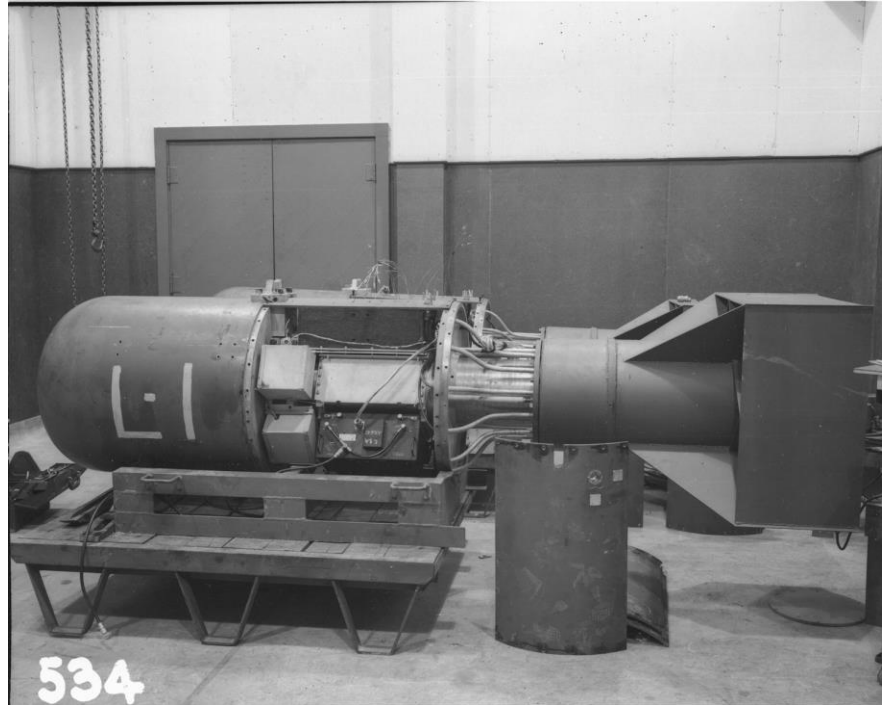
(Register Number)

“I not only drew it, I cut out drawings, isometric drawings, and cut it out so you could see everything in the bomb.”

Minion White (signature)
16 May 44 (date)

209 1330

Miriam's Drawings Actualized



“If we needed something, we had it.”— Miriam White Campbell discusses the Lab’s commitment to providing the necessary resources to support the creation of Little Boy.

Acknowledgements



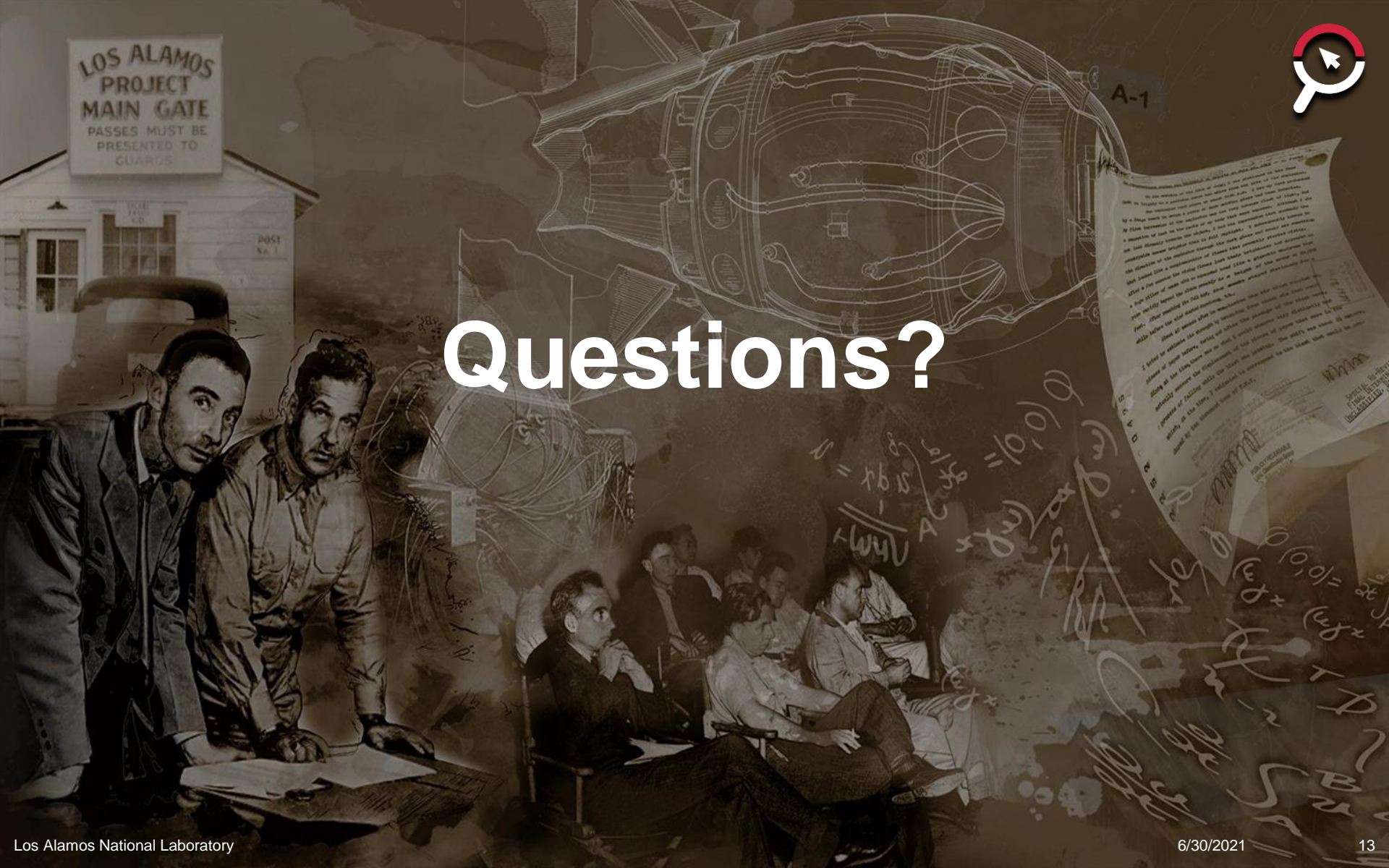
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Questions?